

## 2. Existing Conditions

### EXISTING CITY PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

Hollister has a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities located throughout the City. The existing recreational facilities within the City of Hollister include ten City-owned and operated parks, four special use facilities, and one County park.

#### **Airport Neighborhood Park**

This 3/4-acre park, located at the Hollister Airport adjacent to Highway 156 on San Felipe Road, includes picnic tables, barbecue grills, and an open turf area. Tall trees are located within the site, but they provide little relief to the consistent winds in the area. Community use of the park is primarily for eating lunch, walking, and children's play. Improvements to the barbecue/picnic areas and a more effective landscaped windscreen are needed.

#### **Calaveras Community Park**

This 7-acre multi-use community park adjacent to Calaveras School on Buena Vista Road includes a softball/soccer field, children's area, tot lot, family picnic areas, group picnic pavilion, turf amphitheater with stage, restroom, and parking lot.

#### **Cerra Vista Park**

Jointly serving the school and neighborhood, Cerra Vista Park is 3.5 acres of grass playfields. Abutting the school playground, the fields provide activity space for play and physical education for school children. After school hours and on weekends, the fields and school playground are available to the public.

#### **Dunne Community Park**

Dunne Park is a 3.5-acre community park located on West Street in the downtown area and exhibits an "old town" ambience. Since it is within easy walking distance to nearby residential areas and because it provides a variety of recreational opportunities, including children's play equipment, tennis, horseshoes, picnicking and ballfields, Dunne is one of the most popular parks in the City. The park also features a community room, a rose garden and characteristic mature trees. The ballfields are used for practice fields.

#### **Frank Klauer Memorial Park**

As a focal point for the Sunnyslope neighborhood, this 5-acre park located provides grass play fields, play equipment, and picnic areas for the residents. A large storm water detention area is fenced and secured for safety during the rainy season but is open much of the year for informal play.

**John Z. Hernandez  
Memorial Park**

This 1/4-acre mini park, located on Central Avenue between Willows and Ranchito Drive, includes a half-court basketball court, an open turf area, and play apparatus. It is used primarily by residents in the immediate neighborhood.

**Los Brisas Estates  
Neighborhood Park**

This 1.0-acre neighborhood park, located at the intersection of Clearview Drive and Nezperce Drive includes a children's play area with apparatus, an open turf area for informal play and picnic tables.

**McCarthy Street  
Neighborhood Park**

McCarthy Street Park is a 1.5-acre neighborhood park located at San Andreas High School and includes an open turf area and multi-use basketball court.

**Tony Aguirre Memorial  
Park**

Completed last year, this one-acre park on Bridgevale Road provides additional grass play fields and a new playground for the neighborhood. Picnic tables and benches provide create more opportunity for families or small group gatherings. The play fields are available as practice fields for younger youth team practice but is too small for regulation play.

**Veterans Memorial  
County Park**

Veterans Memorial, the only County Park in the City, located along both sides of Memorial Drive between Hillcrest Road and Sunnyslope School, is a 35-acre park that is partially developed. The larger east side of the park (33 acres) includes active sports facilities, such as baseball, softball and tennis. The ballfields, restrooms, concession stand and the Bertha Briggs Memorial Youth Center were built, paid for and operated by individual private organizations, such as Little League and Babe Ruth baseball. The County provides general maintenance, including mowing, irrigation and garbage removal. City adult softball league games and tournaments are held in this park.

Family and group picnic facilities and horseshoe pits area are located on the 2-acre strip of land west of Memorial Drive. The park lacks overall organization and identity due to the separation by Memorial Drive. Landscaping is minimal except for a few street trees along the east side of Memorial Drive. There are no park trees to provide shade or visual interest. On the east side, ample space is provided in the unpaved areas adjacent to the ballfields.

**Vista Park Hill  
Community Park**

Overlooking the entire City on Hill Street, Vista Park Hill is one of the most scenic places in the area, offering 360° panoramic views. Picnic facilities used to be heavily used on the weekends, but windy conditions and security concerns make newer parks more attractive than these older facilities. The outdated children' s play area and group picnic facilities, and restrooms also don' t meet current code or safety standards. Of the-15 acres of park, much of the land area consists of steep slopes surrounding the developed hilltop. In addition to the three developed acres, various institutional uses are located in an aging building complex to the east of the developed park area.

The park should be master planned in conjunction with new uses at the building site. Various park development alternatives should consider the site as more of a neighborhood park with surrounding open space.

**SPECIAL USE FACILITIES**

**Hollister Community  
Center**

The 10,000 square-foot Community Center, built in 1980, is located at West Street and Fremont Way at the foot of Vista Park Hill. It accommodates the Recreation Department offices, the majority of recreation classes and programs, and daily senior activities and programs. Special community events, such as Teen Dances and Kids Night Out and annual events, such as Cupid Express Valentines and Breakfast with Santa, are held at the Center. The building is always used to capacity, and demand for additional programs continues to increase.

**Hollister Skate Park**

A 1/2-acre facility located on a leased site in Veterans Memorial Park. The 8,000 square foot shaped concrete Skate Park is non-supervised with jump and skill challenges for skate and skateboard users. Fenced and open "dawn to dusk," the park offers Hollister youth a contemporary, nontraditional recreation experience.

**Marguerite Maze  
Sports Fields**

A 7-acre facility located between Gabilan Hills Elementary School and Marguerite Maze Middle School. The City and Hollister School District jointly manage the facility that includes ballfield backstops and soccer fields.

**Rancho San Justo  
Sports Facility**

Rancho San Justo is used primarily for active sports league play. This 13-acre facility operated jointly with the Hollister School District, includes softball fields, soccer fields, a football field and a track.

**SPORTS & SPECIFIC  
USE FACILITIES**

**Ballfields**

Lighted softball fields used for league and tournament play are provided at Veterans Memorial Park and Rancho San Justo Sports Facility. The fields at R. O. Hardin School, Calavaras School and Vista Park Hill are suitable practice facilities. One softball/soccer field is available at Calavaras Park.

**Soccer Fields**

Facilities available for soccer use are located at Rancho San Justo Sports Facility, R. O. Hardin School, Calavaras Park and School. Lighting at Rancho San Justo accommodates night league play.

**Tennis Courts**

Six lighted tennis courts are available to the public at Dunne Park and Veterans Memorial Park. Recreation Department tennis programs and classes are offered at Dunne Park.

**Basketball Courts**

Outdoor basketball courts are available at McCarthy Street Park, John Z. Hernandez Park, Calavaras School, Sunnyslope School, R. O. Hardin, Fremont School, Rancho San Justo School, and San Benito Joint Union High School.

**Swimming Pools**

The only swimming pool in the City, located at San Benito Joint Union High School, is available to the public for recreational swimming during the summer months only. San Benito Aquatics Club uses the facility year-round. The desire for an additional pool is clearly demonstrated by a response by the 1989 Community Survey; 74% of the respondents indicated that a pool was needed. In a 2000 Questionnaire, an aquatics facility was the highest priority of resident preferences.

**Gymnasium**

Access to gymnasium space is severely limited in Hollister. There are gymnasiums at San Benito Joint Union High School, Marguerite Maze and Rancho San Justo Middle Schools. The City recently purchased Veterans Memorial Hall that will be available in 2002. A gymnasium is also located at Sacred Heart Catholic School; however, the hard tile floor is not a regulation size. The need for a multi-purpose recreation facility was mentioned by 59% of the Community Questionnaire respondents.

**Public Golf Courses**

45 holes of golf are located within 7 miles of Hollister. Two 18 hole public golf courses are located at Ridgemark Golf and Country Club and one 9 hole public course is located at Bolado Park Golf Club and one 18 hole course at San Juan Oaks.

**Outdoor Theatre**

An outdoor theatre with natural berm seating is located at Calaveras School Park.

**Other Recreation  
Facilities**

Recreation facilities are not limited to those owned and operated by the City. Other facilities include those at Hollister Unified School District, San Benito Union High School District, San Benito County, State and privately owned facilities.

The City and Hollister Unified School District enjoy a successful history with joint use agreements. Some recreation programs operate at school gymnasiums and fields. Joint School/City park sites offer use of play courts and play equipment after school hours. Tennis courts and pool are used at the High School. School facilities are also used by non-City recreation and cultural programs. While not owned or managed by the City, community residents see school facilities as an important component of the community recreation fabric.

The County and State operate several regional facilities within proximity to Hollister residents.

**Trails & Bikeways**

Hollister has collaborated with the San Benito County Council of San Benito County Governments (COG) and Caltrans to plan and implement a Regional Bicycle Master Plan. Currently, COG is updating the Master Plan.

The current plan combines the use of Class I (grade separated), Class II lanes (on street/stripped lane), and Class III (no separation) bike routes.

Existing bikeways consist of a 6 -foot wide bike path along Prospect Avenue, from Sunnyslope Road to Hawkins Street along the railroad tracks. Another section of Class I path adjoins Airline Highway from Sunnyslope Road to Sunset Drive.

## **Recreation Programs**

The City' s Recreation Services Department currently operates about 60 programs throughout the year at the Community Center, parks, school and private facilities. Programs are tailored for all ages from preschoolers to seniors.

To manage the Community Center and recreation programs, the Recreation Department utilizes an extensive combination of part-time and seasonal employees as well as five full-time and one half-time staff. The positive commitment and service provided by part-time, as well as full-time staff, are reflected in residents growing participation in recreation programs.

The recreation demands for tot, youth, young adult, adult and senior programs are increasing. Requests for new programs or expansion of existing programs are usually limited by lack of facilities.

When renovated, the City will have one gymnasium at Veterans Memorial Hall. The Hollister School District is developing new gymnasium facilities at four elementary/middle school sites. These will not managed by the City but scheduled for City league activities.

The City has no pool and residents rely locally on the outdoor High School pool. The YMCA is considering a recreation facility that may include a pool.

In addition to City sponsored programs, many individuals and private organizations sponsor recreation and cultural arts programs that utilize City and School District facilities. Many of those programs are promoted and advertised by the Recreation Services Department.

## **PARKS & RECREATION FACILITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

The parks and recreation classification system can assist the City in evaluating the distribution of existing park facilities, where new park facilities should be located, and what facilities would be appropriate at different types of parks. The system can also be used to evaluate how different types of facilities should be maintained over time. In addition, the classification system can be used to communicate the types of recreation facilities desired by the community.

The City currently has six types of facilities: Mini Park; Neighborhood/School Park; Neighborhood Park; Community Park; Trails and Linear Parks; and Special Use Facilities. The classification system recognizes the diversity of parkland conditions and management requirements in Hollister.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **Walking Distance**

Assumes a one-way travel time distance to or from a neighborhood park of 15 minutes or less. Based on an average adult walking speed of 2 miles per hour, this translates into a 1/2-mile service radius for mapping purposes.

#### **Limited Active Recreation**

##### **Use or Open Space**

Parklands that will not be formally developed into typical high-use urban parkland. Limited use parklands will remain in substantially natural conditions, and may be portions of larger parks as undeveloped areas. These parklands are highly valued for their scenic quality, contribution to community character, and passive recreational use. But due to their limited active recreation use, parklands which remain in substantially natural conditions may be valued as a percentage of their total acreage when calculating “park acres per thousand population”.

Existing Parks  
11 x 17 map



Regional Park Facilities  
11 x 17 map